



TUESDAY

★ GALVESTON COUNTY ★ THE DAILY NEWS

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TEXAS: Dry county has state's highest youth-DWI rate. **Page A9**



SPORTS: Pacers clip Bulls in a wild finish to even the Eastern Conference finals, 2-2. **Page B1**



BUSINESS: Climbing the corporate ladder is losing its appeal for some. **Page A11**

Hero's salute

▶ Jack Phillips salutes as the American flag is raised Monday over League Park in League City. Phillips is a member of American Legion Post 554. (Photo by Kevin Bartram)



Residents remember on Memorial Day

COUNTY

By MARTY SCHLADEN
The Daily News

Citizens who died in the line of duty were honored in ceremonies around the county.

Monday was a day when people flocked to area beaches and swimming pools, backyard barbecues and picnics in neighborhood parks.

It was also a day when they remembered citizens who died fighting for their country.

John Dupla remembered a particular veteran: Thomas Steinbach.

The 1966 La Marque graduate had, like many of his classmates, gone into the military. In late 1968, his Marine reconnaissance outfit had spent more than a month encircling a part of the North Vietnamese Army in an ever-tightening noose — an operation the Marine Corps called a "circus."

Overall, the circus was a great success for Steinbach's outfit. During the six-week campaign, it killed about a thousand of the enemy while losing only about 100 of its own.

But Steinbach was among them. He was killed Nov. 29, 1968 at the age of 21.

As Dupla stood Monday in League Park for Memorial Day ceremonies, he



▲ Denny Hair portrays General George Patton during a Memorial Day ceremony Monday at League Park in League City. The Memorial Day observance was one of several in Galveston County. (Photo by Kevin Bartram)

held a framed impression that he'd made of Steinbach's name four years ago by rubbing a pencil across a piece of paper pushed up against the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Dupla, a high-school classmate of

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Memorial Day

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Steinbach's, said the trip to Washington was emotional for him as he remembered his classmate and his own experiences in Vietnam.

One of about 50 members of the La Marque class of 1966 to go into the service, Dupla handled black labs as a combat tracker for the air cavalry.

Other classmates who went to Vietnam were green berets, Air Force pilots, sailors on river patrol boats, Dupla said.

In 1968, Dupla was wounded himself. Twenty-six years later, he went to Washington with his family and a soldier who was wounded at the same time he was.

"It was overwhelming," Dupla said. "It was really emotional."

They looked up the names of their friends who were etched into the wall among the names of the other war dead. Among them, they found Steinbach's.

The celebration Dupla attended Monday included a parade and a color guard and a speech by a Houston police officer impersonating George S. Patton.

The celebration was one of

many in the area.

In Galveston, the Raymond C. Paul VFW Post conducted a memorial service at 23rd Street and Broadway.

At that ceremony, the Seaborn Conservation Corps served as an honor guard, while Mayor Roger Quiroga read a proclamation. The ladies auxiliary presented a wreath, Lee Stewart played taps and then the flags were folded.

In La Marque, the annual cleanup of Rising Star Cemetery was held.

In Texas City, the Vietnam Veterans of America held a flag-disposal service at the Texas

City Dike. This year's watch fire was dedicated to veterans of the Persian Gulf War.

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